

FILED
IN CLERKS OFFICE

2004 MAY 19 P 12: 56

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
ENTERTAINMENT I, LLC d/b/a
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS,

Plaintiff

v.

SMITA PATEL,

Defendant

CIVIL ACTION
NO.

04-40080-NMG

MAY 18, 2004

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Charter Communications Entertainment I, LLC d/b/a Charter Communications ("Charter"), by this Complaint seeks injunctive relief and damages under provisions of the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 and the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, 47 U.S.C. § 553 and the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1988, 47 U.S.C. § 605, for the unauthorized interception or reception, or the assistance in the unauthorized interception or reception, of cable services offered over Plaintiff's cable system. As set forth in this Complaint, the Defendant ordered and obtained a device expressly designed, manufactured and intended for the surreptitious and unauthorized reception of Charter's cable services.

RECEIPT # 404325
AMOUNT \$ 150.00
SUMMONS ISSUED ☒
LOCAL RULE 4.1 ☒
WAIVER FORM ☒
MCF ISSUED ☒
BY DPTY. CLK. 5-18-04
DATE 5/18/04

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action arises under the Federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 and the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, 47 U.S.C. § 553, and the Satellite Home Viewer Act of 1988, 47 U.S.C. § 605.

2. The Court has jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 in that this action arises under the laws of the United States.

3. Venue is proper in the District of Massachusetts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as the Defendant resides in the District and the claims arose here.

APPLICABLE LAW

4. The interception or reception, or any assistance in the interception or reception, of community antenna television ("CATV") or cable service, unless specifically authorized to do so by a cable operator or as is otherwise specifically authorized by law, is prohibited under 47 U.S.C. § 553(a).

5. The unauthorized interception of cable service and the sale and/or installation of any device or equipment by persons knowing or having reason to know that the device or equipment is used primarily for the assistance in the unauthorized decryption of satellite cable programming is prohibited under 47 U.S.C. § 605 (a).

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, Charter Communications Entertainment I, LLC d/b/a Charter Communications ("Charter"), is a Delaware limited liability company with a principal place of business at 95 Higgins Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01606.

7. Charter is a cable operator, within the meaning of 47 U.S.C. § 522(5) and § 553(a), and provides CATV or cable service, within the meaning of 47 U.S.C. § 522(6), to its customers who are authorized to receive the particular service level or service tier and any other video programming which a customer orders from the Plaintiff and agrees to pay the applicable rates therefore.

8. Defendant Smita Patel resides at 358 Main Street, Apartment B, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, which is in Charter's service area.

COUNT I – VIOLATIONS OF 47 U.S.C. § 553

9. Charter offers cable services to residents of all of its service areas for which subscribers pay a monthly fee depending upon the amount of cable television programming and services selected and purchased by the subscriber. Each subscriber who pays monthly fees to Charter is entitled to receive that level of services and programming that is purchased from Charter.

10. Charter's signals are (a) private communications not intended for public or other use without authorization, (b) communications services offered over a cable system, and (c) satellite cable programming.

11. Charter has offered and continues to offer premium programming services, such as Home Box Office, Cinemax and Showtime, and certain Pay-Per-View channels for movies and events.

12. Charter's signals for premium programming services and for Pay-Per-View services are electronically coded or scrambled so that they must be decoded by electronic decoding equipment in order for the signals to be viewed clearly on a television receiver or monitor.

13. To decode these signals, Charter provides subscribers of such services with electronic decoding equipment referred to as converters.

14. Charter's converters are programmed from a central location of Charter to decode the signals and thereby enable the subscriber to view that level of cable service which she has purchased. Charter programs each of its converters specifically to permit the subscriber to view only that level of cable service and programming which she has purchased.

15. "Pay-Per-View" is a service made available to Charter's residential subscribers.

16. The Pay-Per-View service requires the subscriber to have an addressable converter box connected to his television receiver or monitor.

17. To order a Pay-Per-View movie or event, the subscriber either telephones Charter and requests to view the specific Pay-Per-View movie or event or orders said movie or event by utilizing the subscriber's remote control device. Charter then programs the addressable converter box to descramble that Pay-Per-View movie or event, enabling the subscriber to receive a non-scrambled signal during the time of the broadcast.

18. The price of Pay-Per-View movies or events varies, but presently ranges from \$3.95 for certain movies to approximately \$49.95 for certain sporting or other special events. Charter subscribers are billed monthly for Pay-Per-View movies and events ordered during the previous month.

19. Unauthorized decoders or descramblers are devices that have been designed or modified to defeat the scrambling or addressable security functions of

Charter's cable system that are designed to ensure that only authorized customers of certain levels or tiers of services, or of premium or Pay-Per-View programming, receive such services (the "scrambling technology").

20. Pursuant to business records seized or produced in AT&T Broadband v. Modern Electronics, Inc., 8:02-00430 (D. Neb. Sept. 17, 2002) ("AT&T Broadband"), Charter obtained the business records of Modern Electronics, Inc. and its affiliates ("Modern Electronics"). Included in the business records seized were records of the sales of decoders, descramblers and various devices used to effect the unauthorized reception of satellite communications services and cable programming by Modern Electronics ("cable theft devices").

21. The business records seized or produced in AT&T Broadband indicated that the Defendant ordered and purchased from Modern Electronics on or about May 10, 2000 a cable theft device for use by the Defendant or another for the purpose of unauthorized reception of communications services offered over Charter's and/or other cable systems.

22. Upon information and belief, the Defendant ordered, purchased, received and possesses, possessed, used or assisted other persons in the use of a cable theft device from Modern Electronics in order to effect the unauthorized reception and interception of Charter's cable services and this constitutes one violation of 47 U.S.C. § 553(a).

23. The Defendant willfully and intentionally violated 47 U.S.C. § 553(a).

24. Charter is "aggrieved" within the meaning of 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(1).

25. Charter is aggrieved by the Defendant's conduct because the device purchased by the Defendant is designed and intended to compromise and defeat the

scrambling technology of cable systems such as the one operated by Charter, in violation of Charter's rights and of federal statutes.

26. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the actions of the Defendant, Charter has sustained and continues to sustain damages and incur attorneys' fees and costs.

27. By reason of the Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. § 553(a), Charter is entitled to statutory damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(3)(A)(ii).

28. By reason of the Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. § 553(a), Charter is entitled to the recovery of full costs, including reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(2)(C).

COUNT II—VIOLATIONS OF 47 U.S.C. § 605

1-28. Charter incorporates by reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 28, above, as though fully set forth herein.

29. By virtue of her conduct the Defendant effected the unauthorized interception and reception of Charter's satellite cable programming and communications services over its cable systems by receiving, or assisting in the reception of certain cable services without Charter's authorization and her conduct violates 47 U.S.C. § 605(a).

30. The Defendant willfully and intentionally violated 47 U.S.C. § 605(a).

31. Charter is "aggrieved" within the meaning of 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(A).

32. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of the actions of the Defendant, Charter has sustained, and continues to sustain, damages and incur attorneys' fees and costs.

33. By reason of the Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. 605(a), Charter is entitled to damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(C)(i)(II).

34. By reason of the Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. 605(a), Charter is entitled to recovery of full costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(iii).

COUNT III—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS ACT INJUNCTIONS

1-34. Charter incorporates by reference the allegations of Paragraphs 1-34 above, as though fully set forth herein.

35. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 553(c)(2)(A) and 605 (e)(3)(B)(i), Charter is entitled to a court order restraining the Defendant from engaging in any further activity, similar to that described above, which activity violates 47 U.S.C. §§ 553(a) and 605(a).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Charter requests the Court to enter judgment against the Defendant as follows:

1. For money damages in favor of Charter against the Defendant in the total amount of \$20,000 in statutory damages as follows:

a. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 553(c)(3)(A)(ii) and 553(c)(3)(B), \$10,000.00 for a violation of 47 U.S.C. § 553(a) for the device purchased and used and/or then transferred or distributed to others by Defendant for assistance in the unauthorized use of communications services; and

b. pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 605(e)(3)(C)(i)(II) \$10,000.00 for violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(a) for the device purchased and used and/or then transferred

or distributed to others by Defendant to effect the unauthorized reception and interception of cable services; and

2. Ordering that the Defendant, her family, servants, agents, employees, successors and assigns and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, are permanently enjoined and restrained from engaging in, aiding, abetting or otherwise promoting or supporting interception or reception of the cable television programming, service or signal of Charter or its parent companies or entity that is an affiliated company, partnership, or subsidiary of Charter or its parent companies (the "Charter Entities"), including, without limitation, the following: permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant from connecting, attaching, splicing into, tampering with or in any way using cable wires of Charter or the Charter Entities for purposes of obtaining any of the programming and services of Charter or the Charter Entities without Charter's express permission and authorization; permanently enjoining and restraining Defendant from manufacturing, ordering, purchasing, using, selling, distributing, installing, owning or possessing any equipment, components or parts used to make any such equipment capable of unscrambling, intercepting, receiving, transmitting, retransmitting, decoding or in any way making available all or part of the programming and services of Charter or the Charter Entities without Charter's authorization; permanently enjoining and restraining the Defendant from attaching or connecting any such equipment to any property of Charter or the Charter Entities without Charter's authorization; permanently enjoining and restraining the Defendant from any further tampering with or making any connection or any disconnection or manipulating, in any manner, for any purpose, cable systems owned,

operated, or managed by Charter or the Charter Entities without Charter's express permission and authorization, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(2)(A) and 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(i); and

3. Ordering that the Defendant, her family, servants, agents, employees, successors and assigns and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, surrender to Charter or its duly authorized agent any and all devices or equipment, components or parts capable of unscrambling, intercepting, receiving, transmitting, retransmitting, decoding or in any way making available all or part of the programming and services of Charter or the Charter Entities without Charter's express permission and authorization and any further evidence, such as Defendant's records, including, but not limited to, customer lists, sales receipts, invoices and other documents of the Defendant's purchase, use, distribution and sale of any such equipment at her home or her place of employment in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(2)(A) and 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(i); and

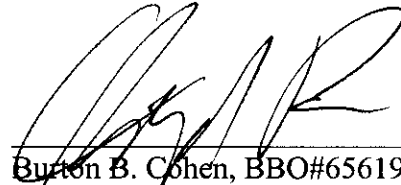
4. Awarding Charter its attorney's fees and costs in prosecuting this action, in accordance with 47 U.S.C. § 553(c)(2)(C) and 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(iii); and

5. Granting such other relief as the Court determines is just and proper.

Dated at Boston, Massachusetts this 18th day of May, 2004.

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS
ENTERTAINMENT I, LLC d/b/a
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS,

By its Attorneys,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Cohen", is written over a horizontal line.

Burton B. Cohen, BBO#656190
Christopher L. Brown, BBO#642688
Murtha Cullina LLP
99 High Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 457-4000

Dated: May 18, 2004

04-40080

JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Charter Communication Entertainment I, LLC
d/b/a Charter Communications

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Worcester
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

DEFENDANTS

Smita Patel

County of Residence of First Listed Worcester
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
Christopher L. Brown, Esq., BB0#642688
Murtha Cullina LLP
99 High Street, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02110 (617) 457-4000

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State ☐ 1 ☐ 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State ☐ 4 ☐ 4
Citizen of Another State ☐ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State ☐ 5 ☐ 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country ☐ 3 ☐ 3 Foreign Nation ☐ 6 ☐ 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury—Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury—Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIW C/DIW W (405 (g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act		

V. ORIGIN

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
☐ 2 Removed from State Court
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation
☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)

47 U.S.C. Sect. 553 and Sect. 605, unauthorized reception of cable service and injunctive relief.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$ 20,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

04-40080

1. TITLE OF CASE (NAME OF FIRST PARTY ON EACH SIDE ONLY) Charter Communications Entertainment I, LLC v. Smita Patel.

2. CATEGORY IN WHICH THE CASE BELONGS BASED UPON THE NUMBERED NATURE OF SUIT CODE LISTED ON THE CIVIL COVER SHEET. (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(A)(1)).

- I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- X II. 195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820*, 830*, 840*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950.
- III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
- IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
- V. 150, 152, 153.

*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases

3. TITLE AND NUMBER, IF ANY, OF RELATED CASES. (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(G)). IF MORE THAN ONE PRIOR RELATED CASE HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS DISTRICT PLEASE INDICATE THE TITLE AND NUMBER OF THE FIRST FILED CASE IN THIS COURT.

4. HAS A PRIOR ACTION BETWEEN THE SAME PARTIES AND BASED ON THE SAME CLAIM EVER BEEN FILED IN THIS COURT?

YES ☐ NO ☒

5. DOES THE COMPLAINT IN THIS CASE QUESTION THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST? (SEE 28 USC §2403)

YES ☐ NO ☒

IF SO, IS THE U.S.A. OR AN OFFICER, AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. A PARTY?

YES ☐ NO ☐

6. IS THIS CASE REQUIRED TO BE HEARD AND DETERMINED BY A DISTRICT COURT OF THREE JUDGES PURSUANT TO TITLE 28 USC §2284?

YES ☐ NO ☒

7. DO ALL OF THE PARTIES IN THIS ACTION, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ("GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES"), RESIDING IN MASSACHUSETTS RESIDE IN THE SAME DIVISION? - (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(D)).

YES ☒ NO ☐

A. IF YES, IN WHICH DIVISION DO ALL OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES RESIDE?

EASTERN DIVISION ☐ CENTRAL DIVISION ☒ WESTERN DIVISION ☐

B. IF NO, IN WHICH DIVISION DO THE MAJORITY OF THE PLAINTIFFS OR THE ONLY PARTIES, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, RESIDING IN MASSACHUSETTS RESIDE?

EASTERN DIVISION ☐ CENTRAL DIVISION ☐ WESTERN DIVISION ☐

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Christopher L. Brown, Esquire, Murtha Cullina LLP

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TELEPHONE NO. (617) 457-4000